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**GDPUD**  
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# GEORGETOWN DIVIDE Public Utility District

P.O. Box 4240 • Georgetown, California 95634  
(530) 333-4356 • Fax (530) 333-9442

*A Newsletter to District Customers*

*Spring, 2005*

## News About Your Water Supply

**T**he Georgetown Divide Public Utility District has prepared this annual newsletter to provide important consumer information to our drinking water customers.

Included as part of our 2005 newsletter are two reports that are mandated by the California Department of Health Services:

- Your annual **Water Quality Report**, which is also known as the **Consumer Confidence Report**, shows the district's tap water continues to meet or exceed all state and federal public health standards for drinking water.

- A **state notification letter** describes how one of the water treatment processes used by the district is no longer approved by the state.



### Service with a Smile

**Customer Linda McCallum of Greenwood, right, learns water meter basics from district clerk Dolores Barron at the district office in Georgetown.**

An overview of this situation and what the district is doing to correct it is found inside.

### Cost Effective

Since both of these reports must be distributed to our customers, the district has chosen to combine them into one cost-effective newsletter that allows us to keep our

printing costs down. Printing for the newsletter will amount to a one-time annual cost of about 60 cents per customer.

The newsletter is being distributed this spring to all of the district's treated water users. We hope you find this information to be valuable and useful.

## Public Notice to District Customers

# Older Water Treatment Process Does Not Meet New State Standards

Dear District Customer,

**T**he Georgetown Divide Public Utility District takes pride in the excellent, high quality water we supply to our customers. In our many years of service, our water has always met or exceeded state and federal public health standards.

Even though our water continues to meet all standards, one of the methods in our water treatment process has become outdated under today's state standards.

This is understandable in a smaller, rural community where water treatment plants are older (the Auburn Lake Trails plant was built in 1971 and the Walton Lake plant dates to 1973) and a small customer base might not be expected to pay for millions of dollars in improvements.

On February 9, 2004, the California Dept. of Health Services, Office of Drinking Water, issued an administrative order (No. 01-09-04CO-002) that instructs the district to comply with state regulations regarding the filtration of drinking water. Printed here is the state's public notification message:

### Notification of Failure to Comply With Drinking Water Treatment Standards

"The Georgetown Divide Public Utility District is providing this notice at the direction of the State of California Dept. of Health Services, Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management (Department) to bring to your attention certain matters regarding the treatment of your drinking water supply.

The Department establishes standards for the quality of drinking water, including regulations for the quality of water supplies drawn from lakes and streams (i.e., surface water). If such water is inadequately treated, microbiological contaminants in the water may cause disease. Disease-causing organisms, if present, can cause symptoms including diarrhea, cramps, nausea, and possibly jaundice, and any associated headaches and fatigue. (These symptoms, however, are not just associated with disease-causing organisms in drinking water, but also may be caused by a number of factors other than your drinking water.)

Since it is infeasible to analyze treated water for all disease-causing organisms that may be present, the Department has established enforceable requirements (Surface Water

Treatment Regulations) for treating surface water to reduce the risk of these adverse health effects. The regulations include specific criteria for filtering and disinfecting surface water to remove or destroy microbiological contaminants. Drinking water that is treated to meet these criteria is considered to be safe.

The Georgetown Divide Public Utility District water treatment plants use a filtration technology that is not among those listed in the Surface Water Treatment Regulations. Because the District has not demonstrated to the Department that its treatment plants provide a degree of treatment equivalent to the listed technologies, the plants are not considered to be in compliance with the Department's regulations. The District is currently working toward bringing its water treatment plants into compliance with the regulations or constructing new facilities that will comply with the regulations.

It is estimated that all improvements and/or studies to the system will be made by 2007.

The District will keep you informed on a regular basis of progress made to resolve this issue. If you have any

questions regarding this notification, or our service, please call GDPUD General Manager Hank White at (530) 333-4356."

### District Summary

The district's water treatment plants were considered to be state of the art when they were built, but their "in-line filtration" technology does not meet current standards.

Your Board of Directors wants to provide the best possible service to customers but is also very concerned about costs and resulting impacts on water rates.

The district is currently working to bring its water treatment facilities into compliance with current rules and regulations. A new filtration system is being added at the Walton Lake Water Treatment Plant and we are planning to replace the Auburn Lake Trails plant with a new plant situated at a higher elevation, near Greenwood.

In the meantime, you may consider your water safe to drink.

# Consumer Confidence Report

Georgetown Divide Public Utility District  
2004 Calendar Year (Reported in 2005)

## Dear Customer,

**T**HIS REPORT provides a snapshot of your water quality. We are pleased to report that in 2004, as in years past, your water met all drinking water health standards.

Included in these pages are details on where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to state standards. For additional information on water quality, customers may contact General Manager Hank White at (530) 333-4356.

## About Contaminants

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## Some People Are More Vulnerable

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## Natural Materials Can Enter Water

Sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, streams, reservoirs and canals. As water travels over the surface of the land it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.



**Rich Monson, a veteran water treatment operator with the district, takes a reading at the Walton Lake Water Treatment Plant.**

- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

## Water Quality Rules Explained

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State Department of Health Services (Department) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

*(Continued on Page 6)*

## Secondary Drinking Water Standards - *Aesthetic*

*There are no PHGs or MCLGs for constituents with secondary drinking water standards because these standards are not health-based but are instead set on the basis of aesthetics.*

Parameters/Constituents (When Sampled)	Unit	Secondary MCL	Your Water	Meets Standards	Typical Source of Contaminant
Aluminum	ppb	200	25 average (ND-50 range)	YES	Erosion of natural deposits, treatment residuals
Color	units	15	ND	YES	Naturally occurring organic materials
Copper	ppm	1	ND	YES	Internal corrosion in household plumbing
Corrosivity	-	non-corrosive	non-corrosive	YES	natural or industrially influenced balance of hydrogen, oxygen and carbon in the water
Foaming Agents	ppb	500	ND	YES	Municipal and industrial waste discharges
Iron	ppb	300	75 average (ND-150 range)	YES	Leaching from natural deposits
Manganese	ppb	50	ND	YES	Leaching from natural deposits
MTBE	ppb	5	ND	YES	Leaking underground storage tanks
Odor-Threshold	units	3	1 average (ND-2 range)	YES	Naturally occurring organic materials
Silver	ppb	100	ND	YES	Industrial discharges
Zinc	ppm	5	ND	YES	Runoff, leaching from natural deposits, industry
TDS	ppm	1000	19 average (15-23 range)	YES	Runoff, leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance	microcomhos	1600	88 average (35-140 range)	YES	Substances that form ions in water
Chloride	ppm	500	2.05 average (2.0-2.1 range)	YES	Runoff, leaching from natural deposits
Sulfate	ppm	500	0.42 average (ND-0.83 range)	YES	Runoff, leaching from natural deposits, industry
<b>Additional Constituents</b>					
Alkalinity (as Calcium Carbonate)	ppm	NS	17.5 average (16-19 range)	YES	Naturally occurring in water
Calcium	ppm	NS	2.45 average (2.4-2.5 range)	YES	Naturally occurring in water
Magnesium	ppm	NS	ND	YES	Naturally occurring in water
Potassium	ppm	NS	0.5 average (ND-1 range)	YES	Naturally occurring in water
pH (daily)	units	6.5-8.5	8.3 average (8.08-8.45 range)	YES	Naturally occurring in water
Sodium	ppm	NS	4.7 average (4.0-5.4 range)	YES	Naturally occurring in water
Total Hardness	ppm	NS	9.6 average (9.4-9.8 range)	YES	Naturally occurring in water

## Water Quality Information - *Continued from Page 3*

### How Data is Collected and Reported

The tables presented on these pages list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2004 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in these tables was collected during 2004.

The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. During 2004, the district conducted monitoring for an additional 28 contaminants, none of which were detected in our water supplies. In addition, the state waived testing for more than 30 additional contaminants that are sometimes tested.

Some of the data in this Consumer Confidence Report, though representative of water quality, is more than one year old.



## Source of Your Water Supplies

**Y**our water originates in the Sierra, flows into Stumpy Meadows Reservoir, and is transported through a Gold Rush-era canal system to the Walton Lake and Auburn Lake Trails water treatment plants.

The Walton Lake plant serves the communities of Georgetown, Garden Valley, Kelsey and Greenwood.

The Auburn Lake Trails plant serves Auburn Lake Trails, Cool and Pilot Hill.

Both plants use a multi-barrier process to ensure the quality of your drinking water. Each plant uses liquid bleach to disinfect raw water before it undergoes treatment. The treatment process involves coagulation for the removal of fine particles, filtration using sand and anthracite, disinfection, and reduction of corrosivity through use of sodium carbonate. Treated water is stored in tanks and piped to customers.

### Water Source Assessment

Source water protection is the primary barrier for providing safe drinking water. A contaminant that does not enter the water source does not need to be removed. An assessment of the district's drinking water source was completed in December, 2002. The source is considered most vulnerable to the following activities for which no associated contaminants have been detected in the water supply: historic gas stations, historic mining operations, wastewater treatment systems, forest management activities, recreational use, storm drain and storm water discharges and illegal dumping. Copies of the assessment summary are available at the district office.



**Walton Lake's Cool, Clear Water**

### Water System Operation

Effective operation and maintenance of the drinking water treatment and distribution system ensures that quality drinking water travels through the system to your meter.

The district conducts a program of ongoing water quality testing to assure that your drinking water continues to meet state and federal requirements.

The district board and staff take great pride in the supply of drinking water that is clean, healthy and good tasting.

### Public is Welcome

Customers are always welcome to call or visit the district office for answers to questions about water quality and service.

The office is open Monday through Friday, from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call 333-4356.

**Rich Monson and Hank White are pictured at Walton Lake, which collects water from the mountains before it is treated and piped to customers.**

### Contacting Your Elected District Representatives

The district is governed by an elected five-member Board of Directors.

To contact members of the board, call the district office at (530) 333-4356.

Your elected representatives are:

**Bob Diekon**

Cool

*2005 Board President*

**Hy Vitcov**

Cool

*2005 Vice President*

**Norman A. Krizl**

Garden Valley

*Treasurer*

**Douglas C. Pickell**

Pilot Hill

**JoAnn A. Shepherd**

Georgetown

## Board Offers Amnesty on Multiple Hookups

**S**ince 1982, the district has prohibited the connection of more than one home to a single water hookup. This regulation is for purposes of health and safety and fairness to all customers.

Last year, with a small number of customers still not in compliance, the Board of Directors ordered staff to enforce the 1982 regulation. To encourage compliance, directors offered a one-year amnesty period, which expires in July, 2005.

Under the amnesty offer, customers are allowed to pay connection fees in force at the time of their connection, offering considerable savings. Enforcement will begin in July at today's connection charges.

For information, call Steve Gau at the district office, 333-4356.

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**Public Utility District**

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**INSIDE: YOUR ANNUAL  
WATER QUALITY  
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE  
REPORT**

*Water Supply Report to District Customers*

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